TOLD OVER A LUNCH

Fielding Invites the Confidence of a Stranger.

NROUBLES WITH A CANVAS COT

Girro Two Explanations of a Cold . His Langs-Experiences of Our Long Night.

inneed to sit opposite me in factory. I noticed at once in a lead on his mind, a cold a miles and desperate manner, ing thus brought himself to an less, he passed and looked at My features wore the usual winds which, though wrinitled the other old things I am wearing fall, is still an invitation to confident

is fall, is still an invitation to confince that would be worth a good deal the kandshaking line.

"I don't see what I could have done that," muttered the stranger, and sen he began to rummage around in the pockets. I caught hurried glimpses I many queer things. Among seem were two gloves, one mie and the other female, rolled toother; a small hand mirror, a serveriver, an iron castor that might have ome off the leg of a bed, a smiled ollar, several mantel ornaments, and bottle of yellow shoe-dwaging. Lesty he produced three gibled balls, and sid them on the table.

"You can't begin business here without a license," said I.

"Business?" he repeated, doubtfully,

usinous? he repeated, doubtfully, inted to the three balls. Then he hed in a rattling and joyless man-

These things came off the ends of e curtain poles-pourchairs, you now, as the French call them," said

I have elsewhere noted the fact that the pronunciation of that word is a sure indication of a man's residence. "You are from New Jersey," said I; "somewhere along the Eric line, I abould say."

"You're right: I'm from New Jewey. ha, hal" said he, "and I'm not going back. We had a nice little place out there, but my wife got discontented, ha, hat I had to give it up."

I've noticed that it's always a man's wife who gets discontented; that is, when he's telling the story. However, the dry and eaching laugh with which the stranger rounded his hourse periods showed that he would be happy yet, if he escaped pneumonia.

yet, if he escaped pneumonia.

"We wanted to more the 1st of the month," he croaked, "but one thing and another have delayed us! The principal trouble was that we couldn't principal trouble was that we couldn't get a man with a wagon to move us. Three days ago, however, I induced an old fellow out there to make a beginning with us. We had our place in town engaged, and the rent and gas meter had begun to run, so I thought we'd better run after them before they got too far aread of us.

"The old fellow's name was Wenner. He came round with his wagon Tuesday morning just as I was ready to leave for town. My wife was just pumping air into my car so that I could run for my train without getting out of breath. That is the way I playfully refer to her usual parting administrations.

"When I got home that evening I found my wife weeping in the midst of our dismantied home. 'That dreadful old villain, Wenner,' said she, 'hasn't kept his word. He's moved only about haif our things.'

"Well, said I, 'that's all right; he'll

come again to-morrow and get the rest. Let's have some dinner and try

to forget our sorrows.

"She looked at me rather strangely, but made no objection. She put the dinner on the table—for we had sent our girl away—and we sat down to cat. While we were thus more or less pleasantly engaged, my wife's sister an-



I POINTED TO THE THREE BALLS.

ounced herself. She had come to take us by surprise. They're a surpris-ing family, that I've married into, but

take us by surprise. They're a surprising family, that I've married into, but they're ceased to surprise me. I'm beyond it. Whatever crazy trick they do, I'm expecting it. This refers to the rest of them, not to my wife. She still has latent possibilities which could amaze anybody. One of them developed after dinner that night.

"She called me aside and said: Johnny it's perfectly awful. Do you know there lan't a bed in the house. 'What's become of them? I naked. 'Sent 'em all away by Wenner,' said she. 'Listen, Johnny, and don't swear so; it won't do any good. That man promised that he would more all our things to-day. I thought we could get into our fat this evening. And I mid to myself, what shall we need most? Why, the beds, of course. So I sent them all of on the first load.'

"Then we'll have to go to New York and s'eep in the fat, said I.

"that listen. Johnny,' said she; there wasn't room for the mattresses on the first load, so I sent them on the second.'

"They didn't get as far as New York, she watted, Wenner's got that second load in his burn. I sent a little boy over to see about it."

"This staggered me. So our bedse on New York," I gesped, 'and our sattresses are in Wenner's bare on the other side of Hobokust Suppose we

and sleep in his laymow?
"The mid that I was very hitter and
sol to suggest such a thing. Pechaps
social get along very well for one
ght if I wouldn't make such a fam.

over the arguments with our girl cost every day since the girl began by to clear on the cot.
Well, sir, it came off colden hour or after I retired. I felt it first on fest. They beng out over the low-



or and of the cot, and there was a crack in the floor right under them. Of course the surpet had been taken up, so when the wind came around to the morth it blew straight up at my beet. I hadn't a very good assortment of bedding. Most of our stuff had been cent over to Wenner's barn. I had a sheet folded lengthwise, in the form of one of those sheeping bags which explorers use. Then I had ar old blanket, and, for a coverlet, one of a pair of fine pour chairs. At two 'o'clock I got up and secured the other pour chair. They were still attached to the poles, but that was rather an inconvenience. I put the poles across under my head, and thus slightly increased the affective length of the cot,

"A little after two I arose again and secured a fur rug. It was a tiger's akin with the head of the beast on one corner of it. There seemed to be some warmth in that tiger's skin, for I secured a little sleep almost immediately after some lines in most immediately after some lines in the li

warmth in that tiger's skin, for I secured a little sleep almost immediate by after spreading it over me. I had left the lamp burning because I thought it might warm the room a little. Well, sir, as I say, I slept a few minutes—just long enough to dream that I was one of the early Christian marryrs in the arena—and then I woke to find this tiger's head, with its gleaming class even, staring me in the

gleaming glass eyes, staring me in the face. Say, what do you think I did? I yelled so load that the concussion put the light out. My wife and her sister thought there were burglars in the house. What did they do about it? I don't know, but my opinion is that they crawled into a pile of expets and rugs in the middle of their room and hal there till morning.

"As for me, the shock of my fright made me shiver. And when I got over being frightened I couldn't stop shivering. How I could be cold with all those things over me, I couldn't understand, but it was true. I arose and se enred the stair carpet. It went up and down me five times, I remember, but it didn't raise my temperature one

put the tiger's skin over the cot and lie down on it. Then a new inspiration came over me. Why not go down and sleep in the kitchen? Good idea. I picked up the cot, the pourchairs, the far rag and the stair carpet and started for the kitchen. At the head of the back stairs I stepped on the fringe of one of the pourchairs. I endeavored to step off it, but there were five apertures in the fringe, and each one of them had secured one of my toes. Therefore, I just calmly fell over forwards, and slid downstairs with the cot for a toboggan.

I reached the kitchen in this easy and unconventional manner; and discovered almost immediately that the fire had gone out. This was not what I had fallen downstairs for. The kitchen was perhaps a shade warmer than my room, but it was cooling rapidly; and a kitchen in the morning with no fire in it is the coldest room in the house, as every married man

the house, as every married man

"There wasn't any fuel at hand, but between you and me, I just had to have some. There were two or three convenient pieces of light woodwork which belonged to my late landlord and not to me. With these I kindled a fire and then I broke up two of our kitchen chairs, and piled them in a handy spot. My cot I piaced close by the store, so that I could feed the fire without getting out of bed. There I lay and kept her agoing with selections from my furniture, till by and by I got real warm and snug, and then I went to sleep. The last things I remember putting in were the pourchair poles.

"These brass balls are the ornamental knobs from the ends of those poles. They wouldn't burn, of course, and I didn't dare to put them'in the store for fear my wife would find them and suspect me. So I simply un screwed them as I lay there, with the intention of throwing them away at

"Have you followed my story? Have you got an idea of how much walking around I did in my 'robe der nooit,' as the French say, on that interesting occasion? It was enough to kill a man. But she says—hold on, are you a married man?"

"Then maybe you'll believe my story. She says I got this cold playing

Bile.

A Lady's Watch is About the Size

Two young man of this city, salesmen in a dry goods store hired buydes
and tooks a pair totaths country. When
shey were perhaps ten miles out they
decked to have a race.

One of them got far shead of the other, and in dashing round a turn ran
into a pile of stones. The wheel was
demolished, and the rider found himself lying among the spokes.

An aged woman who happened to be
passing was mot by thesecond rider.

"My good manna," said he, "have
you seen a young man riding a bicycle
on shrift."

"No," said the woman; "but I saw a young man up the read a spell ago who was sittin' on the ground mendin' unbrellas."—Louisville Courier-Journal.

One of the grantest natural wonders in Java, "the fire island," a large lake of boiling mad, is situated almost in the center of the plains of Grobogana, fifty "puals" to the northeast of Solo, it is almost two miles is dreumference, and in the center immense columns of soft hot mud may be seen continually rising and falling like great black timbers thrust forth and then suddenly withdrawn by a giant's hands. Besides the phenomens of the columns there are two gigantic bubbles near the western edge which fill up like huge balloons and explode on an average of three times per minute.

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Night train with through sleeping car and coach will leave same as now—11:20 p.m.—arrive Chicago 7:55 a.m.

From Chicago solid train will leave Chicago at 4:16 p.m., arriving Grand Rapids 9:50 p.m. Night train will leave at 11:40 p.m. instead of 10 p.m., arriving Grand Rapids 7:10 a.m.

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"Then I made the important discovery that it didn't make any difference how much I had over me, so long as I had only one layer of canvas under me. And the wind still whistled up through the bare boards. I decided to put the tiger's skin over the cot and lie down on it. Then a new inspiration came over me. Why not go down and sleep in the kitchen? Good idea. I

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